14.02 hrs

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at two minutes

past Fourteen of the Clock.

(Shri P.H. Pandian *in the Chair*)

Title: Need for declaration of Rabindra Nath Tagore's Birthday as National Holiday.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (CALCUTTA SOUTH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want only one minute from you to say something.

The country is celebrating Rabindranath Tagore's birthday today. Tagore is the only poet in the world who has written two national anthems − *Amar Sonar Bangla* of Bangladesh, and our *Jana Gana Mana Adhi Nayaka Jayahe*. He is a poet who fought against the British imperialism. During his time he worked for the unity of the country. At the time when the country is passing through a crisis, more importance should be given to Rabindranath Tagore. He belongs not to Bengal only, he belongs to the whole world. I would request that from next year his birthday be declared a national holiday. I think the whole House supports me in this. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is here. He may convince the Government.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (SRIPERUMBUDUR): Sir, we associate with Kumari Mamata Banerjee on this issue.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Sir, we all support this demand. From the next calendar year, Rabindranath Tagore's birthday should be declared a national holiday.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister may convey the mood, the sense, and the feelings of the House to the Government and see that holiday is declared from next year.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, in the past also we demanded for this.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, I think the Government has accepted this.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Please accept this!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kumari Banerjee, why did you not raise it in the morning? Was Tagore born after lunch?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : It should be declared a national holiday from next year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have permitted Kumari Mamata Banerjee as a special case.

श्री लाल मुनी चौबे (बक्सर) : यह छुट्टी डिक्लेयर होनी चाहिए।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whenever we sing National Anthem, we remember Rabindranath Tagore.

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री संतोा कुमार गंगवार) : महोदय, इस विाय पर पूरा सदन एक मत है और आसन से भी इस बारे में राय दी गई है। मैं समझता हूं कि यह उचित है। इसके बारे में जो भी कार्यवाही होगी, जो आवश्यक होगा, संबंधित मंत्री को बताया जाएगा और इसमें दो राय नहीं होगी।